

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
REMARKS TO THE PRESS, WITH CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER DAVID COLLENETTE  
CANADIAN FORCES BASE, UPLANDS, CANADA  
MAY 16, 1994

Minister Collette: My apologies, we tried to dodge you, but the Secretary insisted that he talk to the press. I would like to welcome Dr. Perry, Secretary of Defense of the United States to Canada. This is his first visit to a NATO country, a bilateral visit, and I hope he has a great stay here in the next few days. Ça me fait grand plaisir d'accueillir le Secrétaire d'état pour la défense américain, Dr. Perry, et je suis sûr que son séjour ici au Canada serait très heureux...je m'excuse.

Q: Secretary Perry, can you tell us what your top priority is....(inaudible)

Secretary Perry: The first priority is to deepen and strengthen the ties of cooperation and friendship which we have with the Ministry of Defense of Canada. This has been one of the strongest, most effective defense partnerships in our country's history, and so a very early task of mine as Secretary of Defense was to take what actions I could to deepen and strengthen that relationship.

Q: (inaudible)....do you really expect Canada to send some troops into Haiti after the military regime has gone off?

Perry: I couldn't hear you with the background noise, could you try the question again?

Q: My question was do you expect Canada to send some troops into Haiti after the military regime there has gone off?

Perry: That's looking ahead farther than we are right now, but I would expect that there would be a need for a peacekeeping force of some-sort in Haiti when the military regime leaves and we would expect and hope that Canada would be a part of that peacekeeping force.

Q: (inaudible)...just a comment from what I asked, could you assure Dr. Perry of Canada's willingness to take part in any peacekeeping and nation-rebuilding force...once the military...once the government...(inaudible)

Collette: You mean in Haiti. You said in Canada. Well, as you know we have agreed to assist in the problem with Haiti in terms of the embargo. We participate in a naval sense, and we were going to send some RCMP officers there some time ago and it

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became somewhat dangerous, and I think it's premature to speculate at the moment as to what is going to happen. But certainly we fully support the United Nations in its effort to tighten the boycott and to ensure that the rightful, lawful government of President Aristide is returned to power in that country. But this will be the subject of discussions that I will have with Secretary Perry in the next few days.

Q: (inaudible)...the United States has not ruled out military interevention, Canada...(inaudible)

Collenette: We prefer to be involved in any UN effort in a peacekeeping basis rather than a liberating force.

Q: Secretary Perry, there is talk in Washington about lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Canada has troops that we've committed to enforcing that embargo...there seem to be...signs on that. Will you be discussing that here?

Perry: No, we won't be discussing that because I think we are in essential agreement. The Administration argued against the Senate proposal for unilateral lifting of the arms embargo. That remains our position. I beleive that's the position of the Canadian government, too.

Q: Secretary Perry, does NORAD serve any useful purpose in the post-Cold War...(inaudible)...Isn't it time to rethink the whole NORAD agreement?

Perry: Could you repeat that? I missed a few elements of what you said.

Q: ...(inaudible)...does NORAD serve any useful purpose in a post-Cold War environment....(inaudible)

Perry: I think it is time to rethink the specific functions and the specific activities in NORAD. The original mission for NORAD, which was a Cold War mission, is no longer relevant. The issue today for both Canada and the United States is what actions do we take as sovereign nations to protect our airspace from intrusion. Every nation really has that responsibility and both Canada and the United States have particular problems in maintaining those sovereign rights because of the vast extent of our territories. And so to the extent that both countries agree that it is important to maintain a provision to protect their own airspaces, then I believe that NORAD will turn out, will prove to be the most efficient and most effective way of maintaining that responsibility. And so it seems to me that the issues on NORAD are not whether to maintain it, but how to structure it to meet that particular purpose and that will be the subject of discussions, joint discussions, between Canada and the United States. Originally,

we were supposed to reach a conclusion by 1996, but we have agreed with Canada to accelerate those discussions so that they could be in the same time-frame as the parliamentary review, which Canada has underway right now -- since the NORAD will be an important part of that parliamentary review.

Q: (inaudible)...will you continue to test cruise missiles...?

Perry: First of all, let me say that back in the late 70s when I was in the Defense Department, and we started the ALCM program, we needed urgently to find an appropriate place to test those. And Canada, because of the nature of its terrain in the far North, turned out to be an ideal location. We were very grateful for the role that Canada played in this testing and we believe that the ALCM played an important and historic role in helping to win the Cold War. Today, the requirements are very different and we don't have at this time any requirements for ALCM testing in the near future. So I don't intend at this meeting today to even request additional tests since we don't have any planned. I do expect that we will be discussing today a much broader and a more important question which is the best way of proceeding on the bilateral testing agreement which was formed with Canada a good many years ago -- in which the United States tests some of its weapons systems in Canada and Canada tests some of its weapons systems in the United States. The purpose of the discussions will be to determine how to proceed on that bilateral testing agreement: First of all, to determine whether it is mutually beneficial to both countries and then how to proceed on it in a way which will serve the best interests of each of our countries.

Q: (inaudible)...without cruise tests is that agreement beneficial to the U.S.?

Perry: Pardon me...

Q: ...without cruise missile testing, is that bilateral agreement beneficial to the U.S.?

Perry: Oh yes. It's a...first of all...besides the very substantive benefits which we have in testing many different kinds of systems here, including our aircraft, and the benefits to Canada of being able to test at U.S. test ranges, I think, more importantly, it is one of the important activities which bonds us together as partners. It brings our two military establishments, our two defense establishments, working together in mutually beneficial ways. So it's just that and NORAD are two of the very important bonds that tie Canada and the Canadian and the American defense activities together. Thank you very much.

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